

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
Bureau of Customs and Border Protection (CBP)

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Border Patrol Donates Computers to Local Schools

Laredo Sector Launches Partnership for Education Excellence at Zapata ISD

Laredo, Texas – The Laredo Sector launched its Partnership for Education Excellence by donating 25 computers to the Zapata Independent School District (ISD) Thursday, April 17, 2003. School Superintendent Romeo Rodriguez was on hand at the Zapata Middle School to receive the computers from Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Michael Wimberly, Patrol Agent in Charge for the Zapata Station Hector Trevino and Soo Tan, Laredo Sector's Information Technology Supervisor.

The Partnership for Education Excellence is a Bureau-wide program that makes effective use of excess computer equipment through timely and cost-efficient transfers to schools and non-profit, community based educational organizations. The partnership enables the U.S. Border Patrol to enrich students' educational potential. In April 1996, President Clinton signed an Executive Order, "Educational Technology: Ensuring Opportunity for All Children in the Next Century; that streamlines the process of donating computer equipment to public and private schools."

The donation of these computers will allow Zapata ISD technology department to create a mobile computer lab, equipped with internet access, that will be used by students to do their homework, research, and projects. The mobile computer lab will visit several neighborhoods in the Zapata ISD where students do not have access to a computer in their household. The Laredo Border Patrol Sector's goal is to eventually donate 100 computers to the district.

"By creating this mobile unit, it is our way of reaching out to the community," says Romeo Rodriguez, Superintendent for the Zapata ISD. "We appreciate and applaud the Border Patrol's innovative approach in helping the community." Assistant Chief Patrol Agent Wimberly added, "We are proud to contribute to the education and development of children and young adults in our community. The future leaders of our nation depend upon the development of our students today, tomorrow and in the future."

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